

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly requested. Applicants conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner on May 20, 2008, regarding the 1.131 declaration that was submitted with the prior response. Page 2 appeared to be missing from the PTO records, and a new copy of the 1.131 declaration was submitted to the PTO. The Examiner was supposed to issue a supplementary Office Action, considering the complete 1.131 declaration. No response, however, was received by Applicant. Applicants therefore submit that any forthcoming Office Action may not be final, and an Advisory Action would be inappropriate at this time.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dempo (US Patent 6,594,267) in view of Okabe (US Patent 6,031,838). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As argued previously by Applicant, the present claims recite the features of "limiting the number of bits representing VPI/VCI bits from among VPI/VCI bits transmitted in a header of ATM cells to be interpreted according to a number of ATM connections available for processing as indicated in said AAL2 routing lists." Okabe fails to disclose that the limiting of bits representing VPI/VCI bits is performed "according to a number of ATM connections available for processing as indicated in said AAL2 routing lists." While Okabe does use an address translator scheme, whereby the VPI/VCI address is converted into an address having fewer bits and is then translated at the receiving end using a table (column 9, lines 28-43), this also fails to take into consideration the number of ATM connections available.

In response to arguments, the Examiner comments that the 1.131 declaration fails to provide sufficient conception and diligence to swear behind the Dempo reference. As discussed during the telephonic interview, page 2 of the 1.131 declaration, which provides such information, appeared to be missing from the previously filed response, and was subsequently submitted to the Examiner. Another copy is attached hereto. Hence, Dempo is not prior art to the present application. The effective prior art date of Dempo is June 1, 1999. The present application claims priority to German patent Application DE 199 26 959.9, which was filed on June 14, 1999. Submitted herewith is a 1.131 declaration from the inventors establishing

conception and reduction to practice prior to June 1, 1999. For at least these reasons, applicant submits the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees associated with the submission of this Response. Please reference docket number 118744-150.

Respectfully submitted,

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